

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO AND THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

News You Can Use

No. 33 Winter 2005

Did your city get a 2004-05 grant?

See page 3.

Coordinator's Column

Idaho's Community Forestry Advisory Council

Most of you are familiar with Idaho's community forestry program. Many of you, however, may be less familiar with Idaho's Community Forestry Advisory Council. This group of dedicated folks represents a wide spectrum of professional organizations and communities throughout Idaho, including universities, industry, professional associations, Tree City USA communities, tree board members and more. Appointed by the director of the Department of Lands (IDL), the council advises IDL on key community forestry issues with a goal of helping our program better meet the needs of Idaho cities.

If your community has benefited from our program over the past decade or so, whether through our grant programs, technical assistance from the community forestry assistants or from our educational materials and programs, it is in no small part due to this group of dedicated individuals. Though membership on the council has changed over the years, the advice, direction, advocacy and cumulative expertise of its members has guided the department in the way we deliver community forestry assistance. They help us improve our partnership efforts, review and rank grant applications, advocate for the resources necessary to sustain our efforts, assist with educational outreach, and are always looking at ways we can improve.

What the council lacks in visibility, it makes up for in value. I'd like to thank the council members for all their work and continued dedication to making our communities better places to live. Look for additional information on the work of the council in future newsletters.

— David Stephenson,
Community Forestry Coordinator

Pocatello Tries Structural Soil



A continuous strip of structural soil will improve the growing environment for downtown street trees in Pocatello.

The City of Pocatello has installed the first structural soil known to be used in Idaho beneath sidewalks. Structural soil is an innovation that provides enough compaction to satisfy engineering standards for weight bearing while at the same time providing a good growing environment for tree roots. The soil mix consists of about 80% angular stone and 20% loam. The result can bear sidewalks or even parking lots and streets, while maintaining porosity that is vital for roots to thrive. In Pocatello, a continuous strip of the soil replaces traditional tree pits that restrict root growth and lead to stress, poor health and the premature demise of trees.

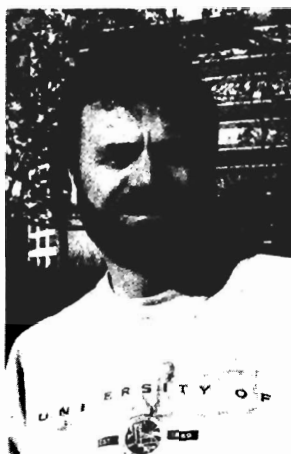
Pocatello's installation last year included six new downtown trees and was the first of several such street improvement projects planned in the city. The trees will be monitored and compared with those in areas not using structural soil. Other improvements included perforated roof drains directed from the buildings and through the structural soil to storm drains beneath the street. This will provide additional aeration and moisture. An automatic, low volume irrigation system will water the trees during dry spells, and a mix of species is being used to prevent catastrophic loss in case of an insect or disease epidemic. For more information, contact community forestry assistant Gerry Bates (see masthead on page 2).

New CFA in North Idaho

Garth Davis is the new community forestry assistant for northern Idaho. Garth replaces Sue Izard who recently accepted the position of outreach director for the Jane Goodall Foundation.

Garth has a B.S. in Forest Resources and will soon complete his Masters degree, both at the University of Idaho. He is a certified arborist and co-founder of the university's Student Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. His field experience includes line clearance projects for Avista Utilities and a contract street tree inventory. He also created and implemented the Moscow Mountain Firewise Homeowners Education Program for the Clearwater RC&D and currently works part time with Ibex Vegetation Management as foreman on fuels reduction, storm clean-up and rights-of-way clearance.

Garth's position is made possible through a partnership between the Idaho Department of Lands and the Pandhandle Lakes and Clearwater RC&D Councils. Please contact Garth for assistance in initiating or improving your community forestry program in any of the northern counties.



James R. Fazio

Arbor Day Grants Available

Seventy grants of \$150 will be made to Idaho cities to help with Arbor Day celebrations next spring. Applications are being mailed to city governments and are due in IDL's Coeur d'Alene office March 14. The grants are provided through the Idaho Community Forestry Trust Account with donations from Avista, Idaho Power, and Utah Power/PacificCorp. Funds also come from a silent auction sponsored in January by the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association.

Grant Application Bloopers

Evaluating grant applications is a long, tedious process. The review committee therefore appreciated the opportunity to smile at some of the typos. For example, we're sure atheists will be glad to know that one city plans to install "an automatic sprinkler/drip irrigation system and plant materials that will be atheistically pleasing..." However, beware of visiting the city that plans "to put plagues along the nature trail."

Scholarships Available for Arborist Certification

The International Society of Arboriculture is making available generous scholarships to individuals who want to prepare for and take the arborist certification exam. For details, go to the IDL website at www2.state.id.us/lands/index.htm and click on announcement.

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Idaho's Tree Ordinances Vary

The autumn issue of this newsletter featured Twin Falls' new tree ordinance. By note of clarification, that city's provision requiring the licensing of commercial tree companies and the requirement that an ISA-certified arborist be on staff applies only to companies that work on public trees.

Throughout Idaho, tree ordinance provisions vary widely. For example, in contrast to Twin Falls' license provision, Moscow's ordinance requires the licensing of all "for-fee" tree contractors working in the city whether on public or private property. This stronger provision provides consumer protection by assuring that legitimate tree companies have adequate insurance, pay workers compensation, and have a basic knowledge of good tree practices as evidenced by the results of a written exam.

On the other hand, a "public tree" in Twin Falls is defined as "any tree whose trunk is located partly or in whole on public property." This provides maximum protection for streetside trees. In Moscow, 51 percent of the trunk must be on public property or right-of-way to be considered a public tree.

When writing or revising a tree ordinance, it needs to be fashioned to the needs and desires of the local community. However, it is recommended that the ordinances in other cities be reviewed and the best and most appropriate provisions be drawn from them.

Grants Awarded for 2004-05

The grant review subcommittee of the Idaho Community Forestry Council and Idaho Department of Lands was faced with another year of tough decisions for awarding grant money to assist with tree planting and care programs in Idaho Communities.

Grant Category	Funding Source	Available	No. of Requests	Amount Requested
Tree Planting & Care	USDA FS	\$14,432	14	\$20,426
Program Development	USDA FS	29,710	17	57,541
Transportation Enhancement	ITD	101,926	19	244,637

Communities receiving funding, with matching funds shown in parentheses, were:

Tree Planting & Care

- Boise, \$1,500 (\$5,780) Trees for city nursery to improve diversity of available species.
- Eagle, \$1,500 (\$3,558) Replacement and new plantings on park leased from county.
- Inkom, \$1,500 (\$1,656) Safety and corrective pruning in State Memorial Park.
- Jerome, \$1,500 (\$2,396) Removal of 2 large hazard trees.
- Kimberly, \$1,500 (\$4,540) Establish and irrigate a city nursery.
- Malad, \$1,495 (\$1,605) Replacement and new planting along Oneida Green Belt.
- Payette, \$1,500 (\$945) Planting 6 trees on boundary of Gateway Park.
- Peck, \$937 (\$766) Downtown tree replacement and energy conservation.
- Post Falls, \$1,500 (\$3,775) Planting 11 trees in linear Singing Hills Park.
- Salmon, \$1,500 (\$2,500) Relocate 30 natural trees to better locations at Sacajawea Center.

Program Development

- CDA, PF & Hayden, \$5,000 (\$5,373) Tree care educator and outreach materials.
- Blackfoot, \$4,000 (\$14,414) Student intern, management plan & school projects.
- Burley, \$2,906 (\$4,814) Establish a city tree nursery.
- Downey, \$875 (\$345) Labels for arboretum.
- Idaho Falls, \$4,000 (\$4,660) Create tree & shrub selection guide.
- Mackay, \$1,323 (\$972) Scholarships to Idaho Horticulture Expo.
- Moscow, \$4,000 (\$9,906) Intern to help convert inventory to GIS system.
- Rexburg, \$3,606 (\$1,020) Scholarships to Id. Hort. Expo, safety equipment & reference books.
- St. Anthony, \$4,000 (\$5,150) Develop a management plan, tree survey, ordinance review.

Community Transportation Enhancement

- Idaho Falls, \$13,265 (\$9,769) 60 trees and mulch at major interchange.
- Lewiston, \$5,888 (\$16,780) Plant trees at northern city limits & modify irrigation.

Calendar

March 14

ARBOR DAY GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE (See article)

April 18-20

Trees & Utilities National Conference, Embassy Suites Downtown, Omaha, NE. (Contact: The National Arbor Day Foundation at 402-474-5655 or visit www.arboday.org/programs/Conferences.html).

May 23-25

Urban Wildlife Management National Conference, Lied Lodge & Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. (Contact: The National Arbor Day Foundation; see above).

June 14-16

Trees, People and Towns – Frontiers in Community Forestry, Cheyenne, WY. (Contact Mark Hughes, 307-777-7586 or mhughe@state.wy.us).

August 6-10

International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference, Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN. (Contact: Jessica Marx at 888-472-8733 or jmarx@isa-arbor.com).

November 17-18

National Urban Forest Conference, The Westin-Charlotte, Charlotte, NC. (Contact: www.americanforests.org/conference/).

Arborist Certification Exams

April 16 Spokane, WA (afternoon exam)
June 4 Twin Falls, ID (morning exam)

Certified Tree Worker Exams

June 11 Spokane, WA

For information or to register, contact: Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217-355-9411 or email: info@pnwisa.org.

- Mackay, \$13,044 (\$14,124) Landscape southern entrance to city.
- McCall, \$5,240 (\$6,560) Renovation landscaping by Hwy. 55 and Rotary Park.
- Moscow, \$4,489 (\$3,286) Landscaping along Paradise Pathway.
- Orofino, \$15,000 (\$12,793) Landscape new business park by Hwy. 12
- Payette, \$15,000 (\$9,121) Plant trees at Centennial Park by Hwy. 52
- Pocatello, \$15,000 (\$191,312) Plant trees in Phase II of Downtown Project.
- Star, \$15,000 (\$12,094) Landscape city's first public park, Blake Haven.



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Tree tip

Trees Need a Salt-Free Diet

Sidewalk de-icing salt adds to the stress already suffered by urban trees. Too much salt can actually kill the trees. Salt is the leading suspect in the death of Norway maples next to the county courthouse in Moscow. A study by UI scientists found salt concentrations 6 – 9 times greater than at other public buildings in the study. There was also greater salt uptake in the trees, possibly due to less organic matter in the courthouse soil to serve as a 'buffer.' Here's how to save your valuable trees from salt:

- ✓ Eliminate or reduce the use of rock salt (sodium chloride) and urea (because of nitrogen pollution)
- ✓ Use traction sand or gravel (or mix with small amount of salt)
- ✓ Use small amounts of calcium chloride or magnesium chloride (better for vegetation, but as tough as rock salt on concrete and carpets!)
- ✓ Use the more expensive but safest chemical of all – calcium magnesium acetate (visit www.cryotech.com/cma.htm)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact the IDL Community Forestry Program (See masthead) and request a free copy of Tree City USA Bulletin No. 32, "Let's Stop Salt Damage."

